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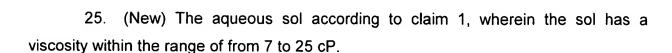
IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, after line 1 (the title), insert, - - This application is a continuation of PCT/SE00/00821, filed April 28, 2000, which claims priority of European Patent Application No. 99850074.8, filed May 4, 1999, U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/132,359, filed May 4, 1999, Swedish Patent Application No. 9901687-5, filed May 6, 1999, European Patent Application No. 99850160.5, filed October 29, 1999 and U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/162,445, filed October 29, 1999.- -

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows, cancel claims 2-21 without prejudice and add new claims 22-40:

- 1. (Amended) [Aqueous] <u>An aqueous</u> sol containing silica-based particles, [characterized in that it has] <u>which sol has:</u>
- (i) an S-value within the range of from 10 to 45%[,];
- (ii) a viscosity within the range of from 5 to 40 cP; and
- (iii) a molar ratio of SiO_2 to M_2O , where M is alkali metal or ammonium, within the range of from 10:1 to 40:1; and
- (iv) the silica-based particles have a specific surface area within the range of from 550 to 725 m²/g.
- -22. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 1, wherein the S-value is within the range of from 20 to 40%.
- 23. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 1, wherein the sol has a molar ratio of SiO₂ to M₂O, where M is alkali metal or ammonium, within the range of from 15:1 to 30:1.
- 24. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 1, wherein the sol has pH of at least 10.6.



- 26. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 1, wherein the sol has a molar ratio of Al_2O_3 to SiO_2 within the range of from 1:4 to 1:1500.
- 27. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 1, wherein the sol has a molar ratio of B, where B is boron, to SiO₂ within the range of from 1:4 to 1:1500.
- 28. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 1, wherein the sol has a molar ratio of AI to B, where B is boron, within the range of from 100:1 to 1:100.
 - 29. (New) An aqueous sol containing silica-based particles, which sol has:
- (i) an S-value within the range of from 10 to 45%;
- (ii) a viscosity within the range of from 5 to 40 cP; and
- (iii) a silica content of at least 10% by weight; and
- (iv) the silica-based particles have a specific surface area within the range of from 550 to $725 \, \text{m}^2/\text{g}$.
- 30. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 29, wherein the S-value is within the range of from 20 to 40%.
- 31. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 29, wherein the sol has a pH of at least 10.6.
- 32. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 29, wherein the sol has a silica content within the range of from 12 to 20% by weight.
- 33. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 29, wherein the sol has a viscosity within the range of from 7 to 25 cP.



- 34. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 29, wherein the sol has a molar ratio of SiO_2 to M_2O , where M is alkali metal or ammonium, within the range of from 10:1 to 40:1.
 - 35. (New) An aqueous sol containing silica-based particles, which sol has:
- (i) an S-value within the range of from 10 to 45%;
- (ii) a viscosity within the range of from 7 to 25 cP;
- (iii) a silica content of at least 10% by weight;
- (iv) a molar ratio of SiO_2 to M_2O , where M is alkali metal or ammonium, within the range of from 10:1 to 40:1; and
- (v) a pH of at least 10.6.
- 36. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 35, wherein the silica-based particles have a specific surface area of at least 300m²/g up to 1050 m²/g.
- 37. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 35, wherein the silica-based particles have a specific surface area within the range of from 775 to 1050 m²/g.
- 38. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 35, wherein the silica-based particles have a specific surface area within the range of from 550 to 725 m²/g.
 - 39. (New) An aqueous sol containing silica-based particles, which sol has:
- (i) an S-value within the range of from 10 to 45%;
- (ii) a viscosity within the range of from 5 to 40 cP;
- (iii) a silica content of at least 10% by weight;
- (iv) a molar ratio of SiO_2 to M_2O , where M being alkali metal or ammonium, within the range of from 10:1 to 40:1; and
- (v) the sol is modified by an aluminium-containing compound, a boron-containing compound or a mixture thereof.
- 40. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 39, wherein the silica-based particles have a specific surface area of at least 300m²/g up to 1050 m²/g.- -